DCEASED

TOM TAYLOR | TREVOR HAIRSINE | STEFANO GAUDIANO | RAIN BEREDO

DC

DECEASED

TOM TAYLOR WRITER TREVOR HAIRSINE STEFANO GAUDIANO LAURA BRAGA RICHARD FRIEND JAMES HARREN DARICK ROBERTSON
TREVOR SCOTT NEIL EDWARDS ARTISTS RAIN BEREDO COLORIST SAIDA TEMOFONTE LETTERER FRANCESCO MATTINA COLLECTION COVER ARTIST

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER SUPERBOY CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY

BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR – ORIGINAL SERIES
JEB WOODARD GROUP EDITOR – COLLECTED EDITIONS
ERIKA ROTHBERG EDITOR – COLLECTED EDITION
STEVE COOK DESIGN DIRECTOR – BOOKS
LOUIS PRANDI PUBLICATION DESIGN
KATE DURRÉ PUBLICATION PRODUCTION

BOB HARRAS SENIOR VP – EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DC COMICS
PAT McCALLUM EXECUTIVE EDITOR, DC COMICS

DAN DiDIO PUBLISHER
JIM LEE PUBLISHER & CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
BOBBIE CHASE VP – NEW PUBLISHING INITIATIVES & TALENT DEVELOPMENT
DON FALLETTI VP – MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS & WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT
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NANCY SPEARS VP – SALES
MICHELE R. WELLS VP & EXECUTIVE EDITOR, YOUNG READER

DC COMICS, 2900 WEST ALAMEDA AVE.,
BURBANK, CA 91505

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POLICE
SWAT
SWAT
SWAT

My mother used to tell me there was no such thing as monsters.

There was nothing hiding in the dark.

Nothing was going to jump out of the shadows.

KABOOM

I wish I could have told my child the same thing.

But by the time I was grown, I'd seen too many monsters.

I knew they were real.

There was one thing I didn't know...

KABOOM

It started with something like thunder. I don't know how else to describe it, because it was a sound no one had ever heard before.

It was the sound of a Superman breaking the jaw of a God.

KRAM

Darkseid's invasion lasted a week.

The Justice League battled, tirelessly, for everyone. They kept most of the fighting to unpopulated areas.

They saved millions. Swarms of Apokoliptian parademons were repelled. Deities were driven back. And the ultimate evil was stopped in his tracks.

YOU WILL LEAVE EARTH, DARKSEID. NOW.

It was, perhaps, the League's finest hour.

It was their last together.

GOING VIRAL

writer: TOM TAYLOR artists: TREVOR HAIRSINE & STEFANO GAUDIANO (1-6,15-26) and JAMES HARREN (7-14)
colorist: RAIN BEREDO letterer: SAIDA TEMOFONTE
cover artists: GREG CAPULLO and FCO PLASCENCIA editor: BEN ABERNATHY

YOU WILL NOT RETURN TO OUR WORLD.

SAY IT. THE LASSO OF TRUTH COMPELS YOU.

YEAH...IT WOULD PROBABLY BE EASIER FOR HIM TO SPEAK IF SUPERMAN HADN'T JUST BROKEN HIS MOUTH.

I WILL NOT RETURN.

I HAVE NO NEED.

FOR THE TRUTH IS...

BLAM

...I HAVE WHAT I CAME FOR.

YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT THAT WAS GOING REALLY WELL, RIGHT UP TO THAT LAST OMINOUS SENTENCE.

ANYONE KNOW WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?

DEET DEET

WHAT IS IT?

CYBORG IS MISSING.

LAST I SAW, HE WAS CHASING A SWARM OF PARADEMONS OUT OF METROPOLIS. HE COULD STILL BE--

HE'S NOT IN METROPOLIS. HE'S NOT ON EARTH.

WHAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I HAVE A LOCATION MONITOR RUNNING IN ONE OF HIS SUBROUTINES.

YOU WHAT?

HE'S A WALKING WEAPON WITH APOKOLIPTIAN TECHNOLOGY RUNNING THROUGH HIS BODY AND HIS BRAIN, WHICH WE'VE BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF UNDERSTANDING.

IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO ALLOW THAT KIND OF UNKNOWN POWER TO MOVE FREELY.

DID VIC KNOW YOU WERE TRACKING HIM?

SO, YOU SECRETLY HACKED OUR FRIEND.

WAIT. ARE YOU TRACKING ANY OF *US*?

DO YOU HAVE A TRACKER ON *SUPERMAN*?

...

NO.

ANYONE ELSE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT SLIGHT PAUSE THERE?

LEAVING ASIDE THE MORALITY OF THIS FOR A MOMENT, HOW DO YOU KNOW VIC ISN'T ON EARTH?

MY TRACKING SYSTEM HAS A TWO-LIGHT-YEAR REACH. CYBORG ISN'T IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

THEN... WHERE IS HE?

APOKOLIPS.

Darkseid didn't invade our world to conquer. The Earth was nothing to him. He came for something else.

THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION...

...DO YOU KNOW OF IT, METAL MAN?

NO.

IT IS THE END OF ALL FREE WILL. FOR THE ONE WHO CONTROLS IT, IT IS THE DOMINATION OF ALL SENTIENT RACES.

YEAH? WELL, I TRY NOT TO KINK-SHAME ANYONE.

ALMIGHTY DARKSEID--

"ALMIGHTY" DARKSEID? WHY IS IT GODS ALWAYS NEED PEOPLE TO SUCK UP TO THEM?

IT'S A LITTLE SAD THAT AN ALL-POWERFUL BEING NEEDS CONSTANT REASSURANCE.

ALMIGHTY DARKSEID POSSESSES HALF OF THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION. HE BELIEVED THE OTHER HALF WOULD MANIFEST ON YOUR WORLD.

HE WAS, OF COURSE, CORRECT.

HE FOUND IT.

WHERE?

IN YOU.

PING PING

WERE YOU...?

WERE YOU JUST WAITING IN THE CORRIDOR TO MAKE A GOOD ENTRANCE?

DESAAD,

REMOVE HIS TONGUE.

HRARGHLLK!!

SHLK

THE MOTHERBOX WILL ADD YOUR HALF OF THE EQUATION TO HIS SYSTEM, DARKSEID.

BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM.

:HLRK:

MERGING THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION WITH THE DIGITAL AND THE PHYSICAL WITHOUT DESTROYING THE HOST IS... UNSOUND.

IF HE IS KILLED BY THE PROCESS, THE EQUATION WILL CEASE TO EXIST.

THEN WE NEED TO CONTROL VICTOR STONE'S END.

I WILL SUMMON DEATH...

PING

PING

Darkseid called...

...and death came.

BLACK RACER, I HAVE NEED OF YOU.

Later, after his system had grown him a new tongue, Cyborg explained that this was their mistake.

DESAAD!

They took a piece of death.

=HMMMF=

LONELINESS + HATE + FEAR + DESPAIR + GUILT + SHAME + FAILURE + DEATH

And changed the equation.

This was the corruption.

KRAAKKH

MY HEAD. IT'S IN—

DARKSEID!

IT IS TIME FOR GOD TO DIE

PING PING

KRAAKK

The torturer, Desaad, was immune to disease.

BUDDY

PING PING

But realizing what he'd unleashed, he tried to send the equation away. He sent Cyborg away.

But it was too late.

Their infected ruler was a slave to a new Anti-Life Equation.

Darkseid attacked. He leaped into the fires of Apokolips...

...into the world's core.

...And unleashed.

NO.

DARKSEID IS.

Darkseid was.

EARTH.
METROPOLIS.

DAILY PLANET

As soon as Cyborg returned to Earth, his system was automatically online.

And the Anti-Life Equation leaped from its patient zero to the internet.

WHOA!

NUH!

Cyborg tried to firewall himself, cutting himself off from the world, but the damage was done.

The Anti-Life Equation began to spread as a techno-organic virus.

It attacked through social media, as a disease that bridged the digital divide to the biological, and infected the minds of all who saw it.

The infected mindlessly shared, messaged and tweeted the equation.

As it took hold, desperate, frightened people tried to tear the equation from their heads.

AGHHHH!

And then they were enslaved.

ARGGHHH!

THE HOME OF SCOTT FREE AND BIG BARDA.

I APPRECIATE YOU WANTING TO HELP YOUR FRIEND, BUT IF CYBORG IS BEING HELD ON APOKOLIPS, I'M HIS BEST CHANCE OF ESCAPE.

YOU'LL GO?

WE WILL.

THANK YOU, BARDA. THANK YOU, SCOTT--

CAN YOU HEAR THAT?

HEAR WHAT?

SCREAMING...

THE WORLD IS SCREAMING.

RARRRGH

JON.

LOIS.

THE APARTMENT OF LOIS, JON AND CLARK KENT. METROPOLIS.

JON? I THINK I HEARD MY PHONE BUZZ. HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

DAMIAN? WHERE IS IT?

HOW WOULD I KNOW?

YOU'RE, LIKE, A SUPER-DETECTIVE. BATMAN'S SON SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A PHONE.

YOU HAVE X-RAY VISION.

THAT'S...

...ACTUALLY A GOOD POINT.

THERE.

IT'S RIGHT...

AGHH!

DAD?

CLARK? WHAT THE--?

CLOSE YOUR EYES!

DON'T LOOK AT THE SCREEN!

GAH!

"NO SCREENS!"

VIRUS QUARANTINED. FIREWALLS IN PLACE. ALL SYSTEMS RUNNING ON LOCAL INTRANET.

CONNECT TO THE BACKUP ANALOG CAMERA SYSTEM.

SHOW ME GOTHAM.

ARGGGGGGGH!!

RUN PROJECTIONS.

BASED ON AVERAGE PHONE, TABLET AND PC USE, TAKING TIME ZONES INTO ACCOUNT...

...COUPLING THE DIGITAL WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN AGGRESSIVE BIOLOGICAL BLOOD-TO-BLOOD TRANSFERENCE.

AGGGH!

HOW MANY INFECTED?

AN ESTIMATED 600 MILLION WORLDWIDE.

AT THE CURRENT EXPONENTIAL RATE OF INTERNET DISSEMINATION, THE VIRUS WILL SPREAD TO ALMOST EVERY INTERNET-CONNECTED DEVICE WITHIN DAYS. BILLIONS WILL BE INFECTED.

HAS CONNECTION BEEN DISABLED IN THE HOUSE?

NO.

DAMN IT!

"ACTIVATE THE MANOR ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE.

"DO IT NOW!!"

KRRR

HOW DO WE HELP?

I NEED TO ASSEMBLE THE LEAGUE.

CLARK. LOOK OUT THERE. WHO KNOWS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE LEAGUE?

HE'S NOT ANSWERING.

HE...THE RADIO IS SUPPOSED TO BE ALWAYS REACHABLE.

HE'LL BE OKAY. WE'LL HEAR FROM HIM SOON. IF ANYONE CAN INTIMIDATE A SUPERVIRUS, IT'S BATMAN.

DAD SAID, FROM WHAT HE HEARD ON THE STREETS, THIS STARTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND, WELL...

BATMAN ISN'T EXACTLY SOCIAL.

EXACTLY.

BUT? LOOK OUT THERE. IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD.

DAMIAN. BRUCE WILL HAVE CONTINGENCIES IN PLACE, AND THE END OF THE WORLD COULDN'T STOP HIM REACHING YOU.

IT'S OKAY, SON...

"...I'VE LEARNED NEVER TO UNDERESTIMATE YOUR FATHER."

DICK! TIM!

ALFRED!

MASTER BRUCE!

ALFRED?

THEY'RE IN HERE, SIR.

My mother used to tell me there was no such thing as monsters.

There was nothing hiding in the dark.

TSSSS.

Nothing was going to jump out of the shadows.

DICK.

I wish I could tell my child the same thing.

SIR!

DICK. LISTEN TO ME.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

NO!

But by the time I was grown, I'd seen too many monsters.

I knew they were real.

MY GOD.

ALFRED. RUN.

There was one thing I didn't know...

RUN!!

...there's a monster inside all of us.

THE MIDDLE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN. MILES FROM LAND.

In the first days, we were so isolated.

HELLO? IS ANYONE HERE? CAN ANYONE HEAR--?

We hid ourselves away.

RRRP

Most did all they could to cut themselves off.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. HELP IS--

We had no idea how far the horror reached.

How wide it spread.

How deep.

THE MONSTER INSIDE OF US ALL

writer: TOM TAYLOR
penciller: TREVOR HAIRSINE
inker: STEFANO GAUDIANO
colorist: RAIN BEREDO
letterer: SAIDA TEMOFONTE
cover artists: JEINIL YU & TOMEU MOREY
editor: BEN ABERNATHY

We would learn soon enough.

DAMIAN, BATMAN WILL BE OKAY.

I'M NOT WORRIED, JON.

WHY NOT? I'M, LIKE, SEVENTY PERCENT SURE THIS IS ARMAGEDDON.

I'M NOT WORRIED.

MY PARENTS ARE ALL RIGHT. DAD'S NEVER TRUSTED SMART-PHONES.

THEY'RE HEADING TO THEIR BUNKER.

I NEED TO GET TO SMALLVILLE, BUT I'M NOT LEAVING YOU HERE. IF WE--

THE *PLANET.*

WE HEAD TO THE *DAILY PLANET.*

The first thing we needed to do was find a way to communicate.

We needed to reach out across the world. To find survivors...

...to find allies.

GOTHAM.

I WANT TO STATE FOR THE RECORD THAT I THINK THIS IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.

WHAT RECORD?

GOOD POINT! I SHOULD GO CREATE A RECORD RIGHT NOW, PROBABLY IN THE FORM OF A SCRAPBOOK.

THIS COULD TAKE A FEW DAYS. AS THE SCRAPBOOK WILL REQUIRE GLITTER AND TAXIDERMY.

HARLEEN QUINZEL.

I'M GOING TO STOP YOU RIGHT THERE.

SERIOUSLY?

SHOULD YOU REALLY USE THE GREEN THIS WAY?

I'LL LET YOU IN ON A SECRET...

...VINES ENJOY CRUSHING PEOPLE.

RIGHT. WELL, I WILL NEVER SLEEP IN THE SAME ROOM AS A HOUSEPLANT AGAIN.

YOU COULD COME IN THERE WITH ME, YOU KNOW, RED?

I KNOW. BUT THEN YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT I KNOW.

WHAT'S THAT?

YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THIS ALONE.

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

GO...

"...FACE YOUR MONSTER."

MISTAH J?

I... I'VE BEEN THINKING.

I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE IT WHEN I DO THAT, AND I GUESS THAT'S PART OF THE PROBLEM.

I'VE BEEN TALKING TO IVY AND...

...NO. THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT SWEET, CRUSHING-VINE-WHISPERING FLOWER GODDESS. THAT'S NOT FAIR. THIS IS *MY* DECISION.

PUDDIN', I'M HERE TO SAY...

...OUR LIFE IS OVER.

OUTSIDE METROPOLIS.

I HATE CAMPING. I DON'T KNOW WHY I LET YOU TWO TALK ME INTO THIS.

BECAUSE I'M VERY PERSUASIVE.

AND YOU'RE WEAK-WILLED, HAL.

THAT'S...

...I'M LITERALLY KNOWN INTER-GALACTICALLY FOR THE STRENGTH OF MY WILL.

AND YET LOOK AT YOU CAMPING.

CLEARLY, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO UPDATE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE ON YOUR UTTER CAPITULATION HERE.

HAL. WE SAVED THE WORLD FROM THE FORCES OF APOKOLIPS. WE'VE EARNED ONE NIGHT AWAY FROM IT ALL.

WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR RING TO RUSTLE UP A UKULELE AND WE CAN SING SOME CAMPFIRE SONGS?

ISN'T THERE A CHANCE DINAH COULD BLOW UP OUR HEADS IF SHE SINGS?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OLLIE?

I'M STANDING FOR THE PRESENTATION.

WHAT PRESENTATION?

HAL JORDAN. YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO SUCK THE JOY OUT OF ANY SITUATION.

WELCOME TO THE KILLJOY CORPS.

YEAH.

I'M GONNA TURN IN.

HE'S ON HIS PHONE.

SO MUCH FOR GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL.

READY?

PLINK

PLINK

PLINK

PLINK

PLINK

AND IIIIIIIIII EEEEE IIIII

ARRRGHHH!

SEEMS LIKE AN OVER-REACTION.

HAL?

HAL?
MY GOD.
GREEN LANTERN OF SECTOR 2814. LETHAL FORCE IS NOT SANCTIONED.
LETHAL FORCE IS NOT--

MOVE!!

=HNNG=

DINAH!

THD

JORDAN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU, MAN.

BUT THE NEXT THING COMING FOR YOUR FACE ISN'T A PUNCH.

OH. @#$%.

HAL!!!

OLLIEEEEEEE

LIFE LESSONS

We needed to be heard...

...we needed to broadcast to anyone who could hear us.

THE *PLANET* HAS AN OLD ANALOG TV SYSTEM AND A RADIO STATION.

WE GET THESE UP AND RUNNING, WE GET INFORMATION AND WE CAN START TALKING TO WHOEVER CAN STILL LISTEN.

WAIT!

WE CAN'T GO IN YET.

THE WHOLE BUILDING IS SWARMING WITH MONSTERS.

PEOPLE WE KNOW?

YES.

I'LL...

CLARK?

JON. DON'T LET ANYTHING THROUGH THAT DOOR UNTIL I GET BACK.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT IS IT?

I HEARD SOMETHING.

WHAT DID YOU HEAR?

"A SCREAM."

HAL...?

PRETTY BIRD. WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT DID YOU--?

GREEN LANTERN OF SECTOR 2814 DECEASED.

SCANNING FOR REPLACEMENT. SCANNING FOR--

REPLACEMENT FOUND.

DINAH LANCE OF EARTH.

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO OVERCOME GREAT FEAR...

...WELCOME TO THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

WHOA.

NO.

I DON'T WANT THIS.

TAKE IT...

...WE'RE GOING TO NEED IT.

WE HAVE HIM. HE MADE CONTACT.

IT'S BATMAN.

BATS? MAN, WHAT IS HAPPENING? HAL JUST TURNED INTO A ZOMBIE AND TRIED TO KILL US.

THEY'RE NOT ZOMBIES.

THEY'RE NOT CONSUMED BY HUNGER. THEY'RE NOT FEEDING. THEY'RE SPREADING DEATH.

THEY'RE STEALING LIFE. THESE ARE THE ANTI-LIVING.

AND THE TRIGGER IS AN EQUATION.

I ALWAYS KNEW MATH WOULD DOOM US ALL.

LISTEN CAREFULLY. I'M ALMOST OUT OF TIME. BEING INFECTED, I'VE EXAMINED MY OWN BLOOD.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

...."BEING INFECTED"?

I'M INSIDE ONE OF MR. FREEZE'S SUITS...

...USING THE COLD TO SLOW DOWN MY METABOLISM, DECELERATING THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS WITHIN ME.

BUT IT WILL SOON TAKE OVER.

BRUCE...

THERE'S LITERALLY NO TIME FOR SENTIMENT, CLARK.

IT'S A TECHNOLOGICAL/ BIOLOGICAL HYBRID. IT CAN BE TRANSFERRED THROUGH BLOOD AND THROUGH DIGITAL IMAGERY.

TO SAVE THE WORLD, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DESTROY ANY HUMAN CARRIERS AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE DOWN THE INTERNET.

I ALWAYS SUSPECTED WE'D HAVE TO DESTROY THE INTERNET TO SAVE THE WORLD.

I JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS.

BUT COME ON, YOU'RE *YOU*. BATMAN ISN'T GONNA BE TAKEN OUT BY A VIRUS. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET SICK AND FADE AWAY.

YOU'RE GOING TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR THE GALAXY OUTWITTING AN EVIL AS OLD AS THE STARS, OR SOMETHING.

BRUCE. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO.

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING I CAN DO.

OR... MAYBE MY MIND WON'T ALLOW IT. *IT WANTS THIS.*

BATMAN?

DAMIAN. I...

...ALFRED HAS SOMETHING FOR YOU.

I...IT'S SOMETHING I ALWAYS WANTED FOR YOU. SOMETHING I KNOW YOU WOULD HAVE EARNED ONE DAY.

I'M SORRY I WON'T SEE YOU...I WON'T SEE YOU...

FATHER?

DAD...?

MASTER BRUCE?

CRR

CR RRRA

SSHH

HRRR.

DAD!

COMPUTER. CEASE TRANSMISSION.
CHK CHK
IT SHOULDN'T HAVE ENDED THIS WAY. NOT FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY, SON.

PANIC

We didn't have time.

MY BOYS...

We didn't have time to process.

I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY I COULDN'T SAVE YOU.

Too many died too quickly.

We didn't have time to grieve.

We simply had to act.

To wrest control back from chaos.

To take our hurt...

CLICK

...and strike back.

GAH!

BOOM

ARGGGH!!!

HRRR.
BACK OFF!
I MEAN IT!

HRRRR.

YA KNOW WHAT? SCREW THIS. NO MORE RUNNING.

IVY'S RIGHT.

I HAVE TO FACE MY MONSTER.

MISTAH J...

CHK CHK

...YOU WERE NEVER ANY GOOD FOR ME.

OH...

...OH MY GOD...

...THAT WAS THE MOST CATHARTIC THING EVER!

LOOK AT YOU.

YEARS OF SMILING ABUSE... INSTANTLY REDUCED TO A PSYCHO-THERAPEUTIC LUMP.

AMAZING.

I'M COMIN', RED.

THP

THP

OH, COME ON!

THP

ZOMBIE BIRDS OF PREY?

REALLY?

CHK CHK

OKAY.

I GUESS WE'RE BIRD HUNTING.

DAMIAN?

I'M SO SORRY.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

YEAH... YEAH, I GET THAT.

HOW ABOUT IF I JUST...?

I'LL JUST SIT HERE.

SO YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

YOU'RE LISTENING?

YES.

IS THE KID GOING TO BE OKAY?

DAMIAN IS HIS FATHER'S SON, OLLIE. SO HE'LL FIND A WAY TO BURY IT AND KEEP GOING...

...BUT HE JUST LOST HIS DAD.

LOIS. I HAVE TO GO HOME.

I KNOW.

I'LL SECURE THE BUILDING FIRST.

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE.

WE NEED TO GET THE *DAILY PLANET'S* RADIO SYSTEM UP AND RUNNING, AND THEN CALL OUT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M IDENTIFYING EVERYONE IN THE BUILDING WHO'S INFECTED AND EVERYONE WHO ISN'T.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

THANKS, DINAH.

BUT.

I'LL MANAGE.

The hardest part of dealing with the infected was disassociating.

The infected couldn't be people.

They couldn't be colleagues.

PERRY WHITE
Editor-in-Chief

They couldn't be beloved friends.

Familiar faces had to be shut out.

THE BUILDING'S SECURE.

YOU COULD COME WITH ME. SMALLVILLE WOULD BE SAFER.

YOU KNOW I'M NEEDED HERE.

There was so much anxiety.

DAD? YOU'LL BE BACK, RIGHT?

I PROMISE.

There was no point in making promises.

OLLIE, DINAH. PLEASE KEEP MY FAMILY SAFE.

OF COURSE.

There was too much uncertainty.

We had no idea what was out there.

ATLANTIS.

CONCENTRATE, GARTH!

I *AM* CONCENTRATING.

I JUST... WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME TO DO, MERA. IT'S TOO BIG. IT'S TOO MUCH.

YOU CAN DO THIS. YOU *CAN* PUSH AGAINST THE TIDES.

AND IF YOU REALLY CAN'T, MAYBE YOU SHOULD RETHINK THE NAME, "TEMPEST."

FROM NOW ON, YOUR SUPERHERO NAME WILL BE "MILD WEATHER EVENT".

We had no idea what we were about to face.

IT'S GETTING DARKER. IT'S NOT NIGHT YET...?

NO. IT ISN'T THE SUN.

We lived alongside gods. We'd come to rely too much on the power of our heroes.

IT'S THE WATER...

"...IT'S BLOOD."

HRRARGH.

We couldn't fathom that power being turned against us.

ARTHUR?

HURK

HRAARGH!

GARTH! THE BLOOD. STAY AWAY FROM THE--

--THE BLOOD!

STAY AWAY FROM THE--

HRRN.

HRRRR.

NO.

YOU WILL NOT TAKE ME!

PHOENIX

For all the power of the Man of Steel, Superman was still Superman.

He had somewhere to be...

...but he couldn't ignore people who needed him.

WHOOOO...

And as the first dawn rose on the apocalypse...

IT'S OKAY.

...people needed him everywhere.

JEFFERSON!

SUPERMAN!

SMASH

IT'S CLAYFACE!

ZZZ

"I'M GOING HOME."

MA!

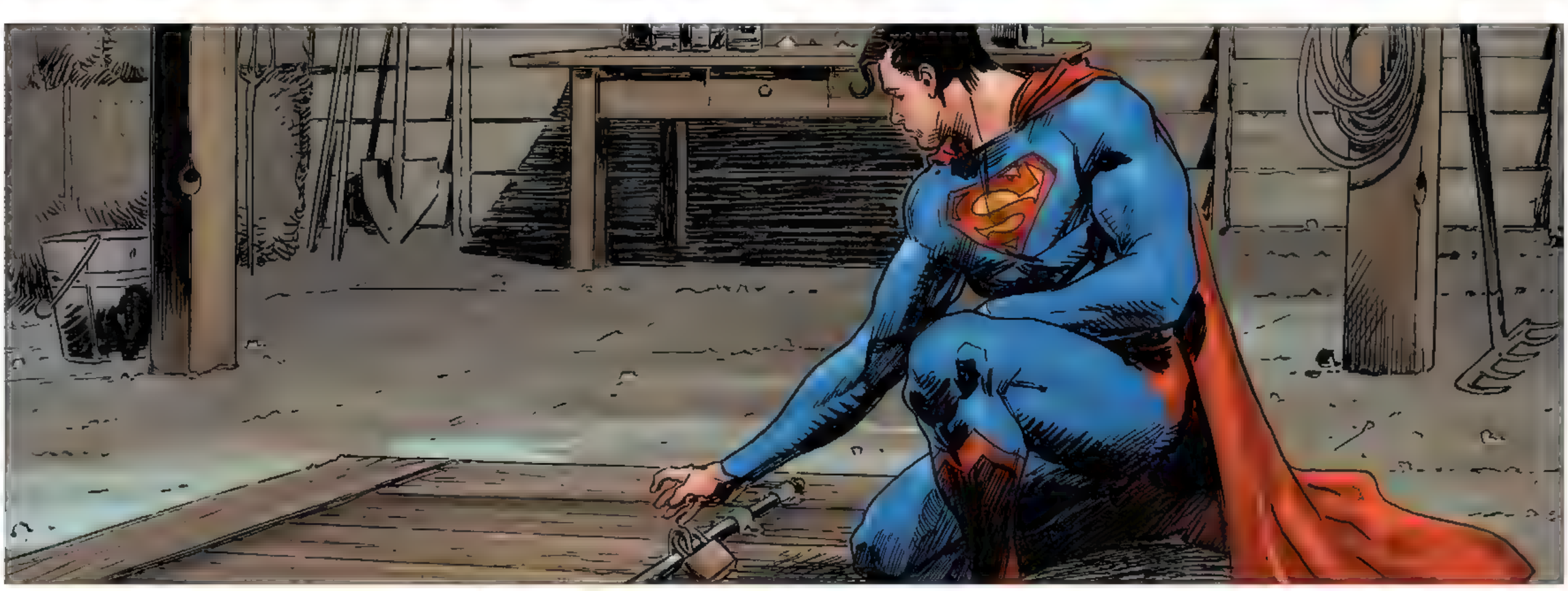
MA?

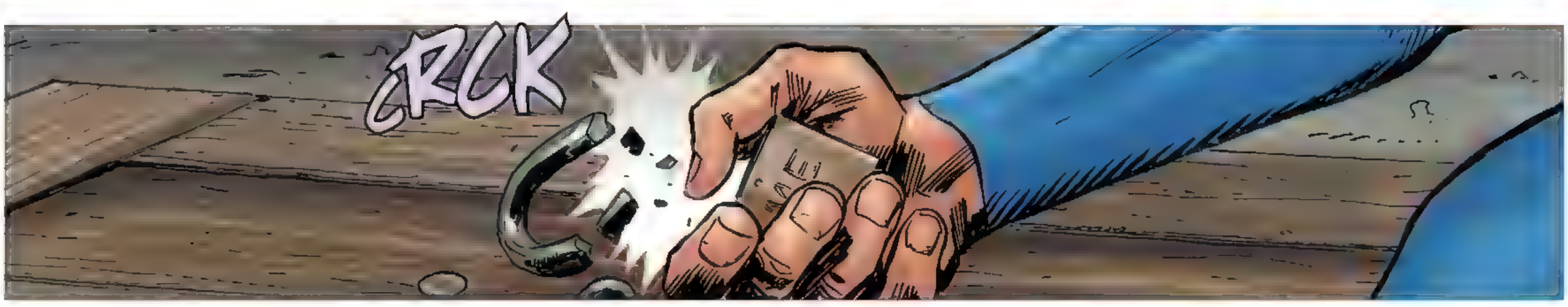
WHERE'S PA?

HE'S... JONATHAN'S INSIDE.

I HIT HIM, CLARK. HE FELL.

cHNk

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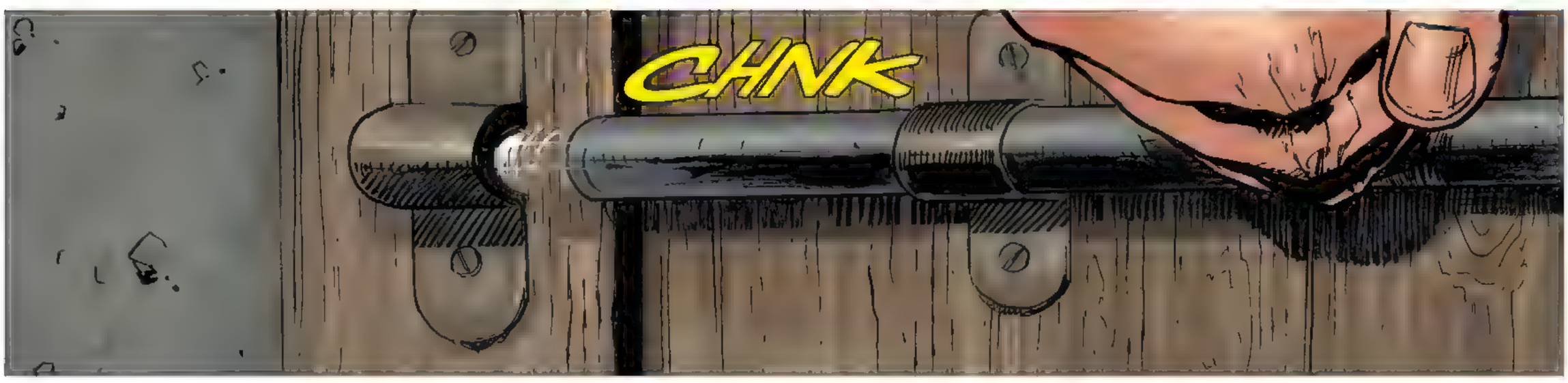
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HRRR.

RREE.

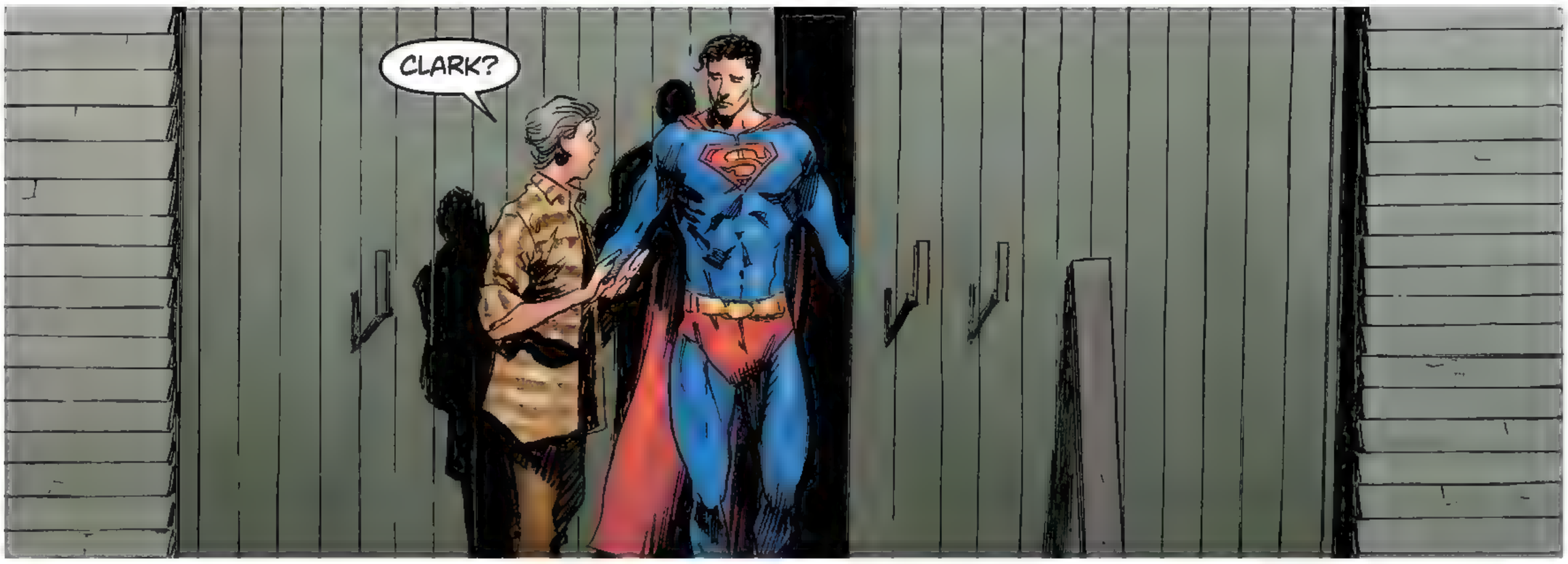
Superman had somewhere to be.

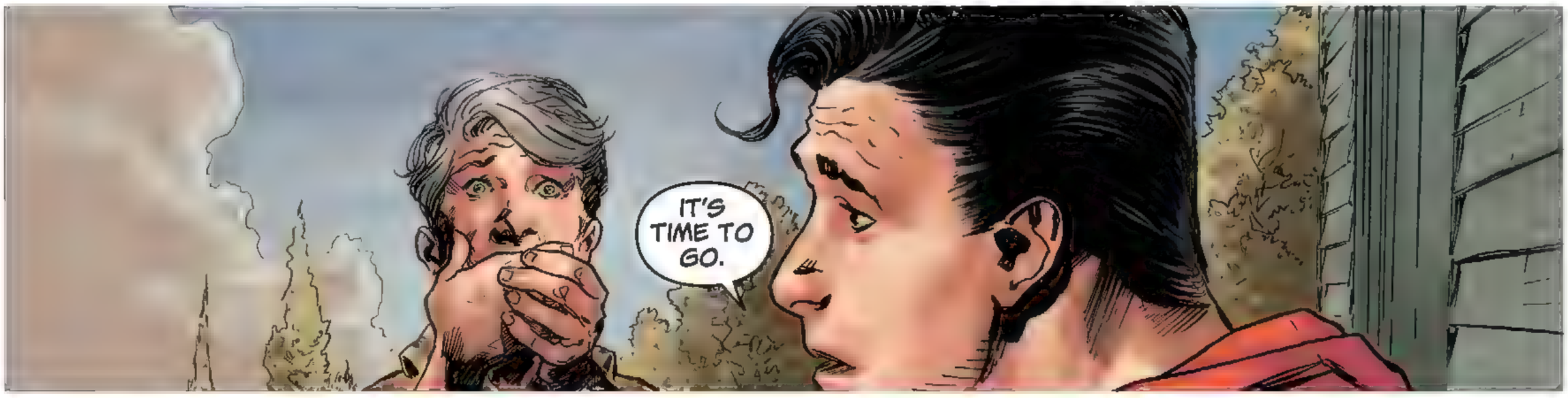
RAARGHH.

He was faster than a speeding bullet.

CHZZT!

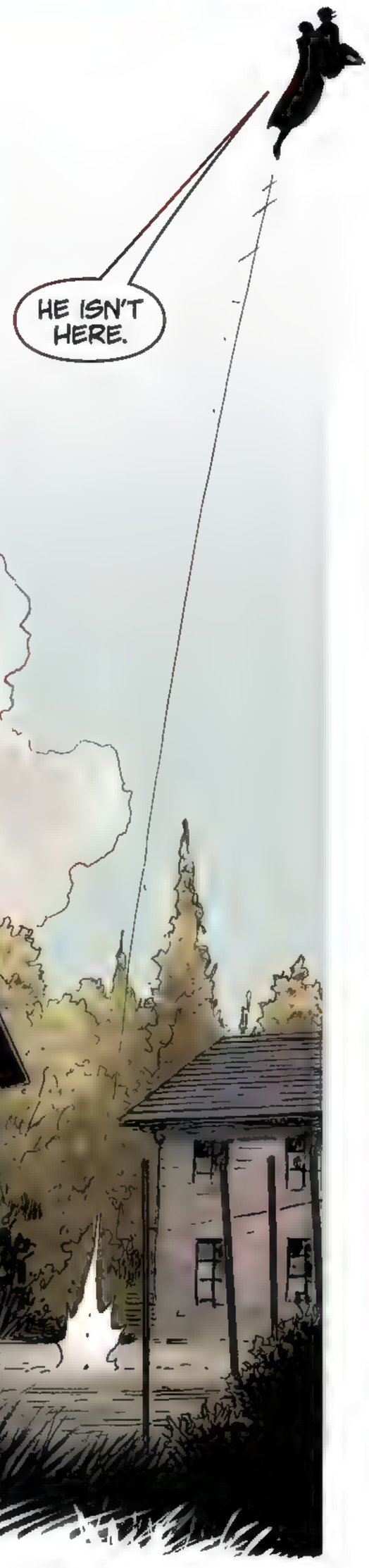
But he was too late.





Red Sea

writer Tom Taylor
penciller Trevor Hairsine
inker Stefano Gaudiano
colorist Rain Beredo
letterer Saida Temofonte
cover Hairsine & Beredo
editor Ben Abernathy



ANDY KUBERT
ANDERSON

WASHINGTON, D.C.

There's an old saying: When you have a hammer, everything looks like a nail.

ANY WORD?

NO. NO CONTACT. NO SIGN OF HIM YET.

CADMUS. DEEP UNDERGROUND.

RAY PALMER IS STILL INSIDE THE MONSTER.

CAPTAIN. WE'RE OUT OF TIME.

THERE IS A CHAIN OF ACTIONS.

AS PER PLAGUE PROTOCOL B, PALMER HAS SHRUNK DOWN AND IS TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS VIRUS.

IF HE CAN SEE ITS BUILDING BLOCKS, LEARN TO DESTABILIZE IT SOMEHOW...?

PLAGUE PROTOCOL C HAS BEEN ORDERED.

CLOSED SATELLITE IMAGERY HAS ISOLATED THE WORST-AFFECTED AREAS.

YOU'RE UP, CAPTAIN. I'LL DIRECT YOU THROUGH A CLOSED CHANNEL. WE NEED YOU TO START EXCISING THE INFECTION.

I'M SORRY.

When you have a hammer, everything looks like a nail.

But...

...we didn't have a nail.

We had an undead apocalypse...

...and the military had a living being of atomic fire.

KRONG!

It was never going to end well.

ATOMIC EMPIRE

writer: TOM TAYLOR penciller: TREVOR HAIRSINE
inker: STEFANO GAUDIANO colorist: RAIN BEREDO
letterer: SAIDA TEMOFONTE cover: ANDY KUBERT & BRAD ANDERSON
editor: BEN ABERNATHY

WALLER... SOMETHING'S...

ATOM?

What happened wasn't supposed to be possible. Captain Atom was supposed to be impervious.

But the lone surviving Cadmus scientist had a theory...

ATOM!

SOMETHING'S...

"...INSIDE ME."

Captain Atom had been in a room with Ray Palmer. Palmer was never seen again.

The scientist believed Palmer was infected, and the equation used him to find a way into Captain Atom.

A microscopic man seized the heart of a living weapon.

HRAARGH!

And the Anti-Life Equation held one of the biggest hammers we had.

METROPOLIS.

GRANDPA?

HE...

OH, MARTHA.

WE'RE READY TO BROADCAST ON EVERY ANALOG RADIO AND TELEVISION CHANNEL WE CAN REACH.

I CAN'T STOP. I NEED TO GET BACK OUT THERE. PEOPLE ARE--

NO.

DINAH'S RIGHT. WE TALKED ABOUT IT. YOU CAN'T.

...AND I UNDERSTAND RESTRAINING YOU WITH MY HAND LIKE THIS IS ENTIRELY SYMBOLIC...

...AND I KNOW YOU CAN JUST WALK STRAIGHT THROUGH ME.

WE CAN'T HAVE YOU BACK OUT THERE. YOU'RE TOO GREAT A THREAT. IF YOU SAW A SCREEN...

I WON'T.

HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT?

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN USING MY X-RAY VISION...

...FROM THE NANOSECOND I WORKED OUT WHAT WAS CAUSING THIS.

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN. BUT I'M NEEDED. WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

THEN FIND MORE TIME.

WHAT?

THEY'LL BE OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE. ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

FIND THEM.

DAMIAN'S RIGHT. THAT'S THE ANSWER.

BUT I'M COMING WITH YOU.

We called out as far as we could.

THIS IS LOIS LANE OF THE *DAILY PLANET* IN METROPOLIS.

I KNOW THE WORLD LOOKS LIKE A NIGHTMARE.

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED.

BUT YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

The call went out to friends...

WE ARE REGROUPING.

To heroes...

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS GATHERING IN METROPOLIS.

...and villains.

ANYONE WITH THE POWER OR MEANS TO CONFRONT THIS, PLEASE COME TO THE DAILY PLANET ROOF, IF IT IS SAFE AND YOU ARE CAPABLE OF DOING SO.

The call stretched across the world.

THEMYSCIRA.

HIPPOLYTA, MY CITY IS GONE. MY PEOPLE ARE GONE. ARTHUR...

I...DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO COME.

It reached queens...

MERA. YOUR MAJESTY.

YOU ARE WELCOME ON THEMYSCIRA.

WE WILL GATHER. WE WILL GROW.

...and goddesses.

DIANA? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

METROPOLIS.

WE ARE PREPARING TO FIGHT THE NIGHTMARE.

KEYSTONE CITY

FLASH. FLASH!

BARRY. WALLY...

As powerful people heard the call, Superman and Black Canary went searching for more time.

I SEE THEM.

...CAN YOU HEAR US?

SUPERMAN? DINAH?

WAIT! WE CAN'T LEAVE!

CRUNCH

BATMAN CONTACTED BOTH OF US THE SECOND HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

WE HAD TO HIDE AWAY FROM THE WORLD. NOT VERY HEROIC, BUT FOR EITHER ONE OF US TO BE INFECTED WOULD SPELL DISASTER.

I DON'T KNOW HOW BRUCE IS FASTER THAN US.

I CAN MOVE YOU SAFELY.

DINAH? YOU'RE A GREEN LANTERN NOW?

WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE'S HAL?

GOTHAM.

BANG

BACK!

GET BACK!!

BANG

CHK

AH... NUTS.

CRRKK CRRAKK

WHOA.

THAT WAS PRETTY ROMANTIC.

CRUSHING THE UNDEAD IS ROMANTIC?

SAVING MY LIFE IS ROMANTIC. CRUSHING THE UNDEAD IS JUST A DELIGHTFUL BONUS.

COME ON.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

THE GREEN WILL PROTECT US.

THIS IS LOIS LANE OF THE *DAILY PLANET*. IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...

MOM. CAN YOU HEAR THAT?

HEAR WHAT?

IT SOUNDS LIKE... THUNDER.

BOOM!
BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!

ANISSA?

IT'S NOT ME.

IT SOUNDS LIKE IMPENDING DOOM.

TRUST ME, I'VE BEEN DOING THIS A LONG TIME. I HAVE A FINELY TUNED EAR FOR THE IMPENDING.

BOOM
BOOM

I CAN SEE HER.

HER?

RGHHH

OH MAN...

THAT'S... A REALLY BIG ZOMBIE.

PUSH HER BACK!!

KRAKOOM!

KEEP GIGANTA AWAY FROM THE DAILY PLANET!

CRUSH

FWOOSH

VOOM

BOOM

WHAT?

CRACK

HRARRGH

NO!!

I'VE GOT THE BATWING.

SUPERMAN! TAKE HER DOWN!

KRAK

THOOM

SUPERMAN. MOVE!!

WAIT!!

WHAT?!

ARE YOU SERIOUS, CLARK? THAT'S AN UNDEAD GIANT! I'M NOT GIVING IT TIME TO GET BACK UP AND--

BATMAN SAID THEY'RE INFECTED. THERE COULD STILL BE HOPE. SHE COULD STILL BE ALIVE. WE CAN'T JUST...

BLOK

CYBORG?

VIC. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

SHE WASN'T ALIVE.

NONE OF THEM ARE.

WE NEED TO TALK.

FATHER...?

TSS

DAMIAN.

I'M SORRY, SON.

HE SAID YOU WERE WORTHY OF IT.

THAT HE WAS PROUD OF YOU...

...AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT EVERY DAY.

HERE YOU GO.

IT'S A TEMPORARY SOLUTION, BUT ANISSA'S CONTACT LENSES SHOULD MAKE EVERYTHING BLURRY, INCLUDING ANY SCREEN.

THEY'LL PROBABLY GIVE YOU A PRETTY BAD HEADACHE.

THANKS.

BUT THAT'S BETTER THAN BEING A ZOMBIE.

THEY'RE NOT ZOMBIES.

HEY, MAN. IF IT GROANS LIKE A ZOMBIE AND SHUFFLES LIKE A ZOMBIE...

THEY'RE A BLIGHT. AN EXTENSION OF THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.

THE BLIGHTED ONES WANT TO SPREAD DEATH. NOTHING MORE.

AND THEY WILL SEARCH FOR LIFE. THEY CAN ***SENSE*** IT. THEY WILL FIND IT. THEY WILL END IT.

WE CAN'T STAY HERE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTRACT THEM.

HEY!

INCOMING!

KENDRA!

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'VE GOT YOU.

I HEARD THE CALL. I WAS ON THE WAY...

WHAT HAPPENED?

CAPTAIN ATOM. HE'S TURNED. HE'S GOING TO BLOW.

WHERE?

WASHINGTON D.C.

The Anti-Life Equation controlled a man of atomic fire.

But we had a warrior goddess and a man of steel from the stars.

They'd always protected us. Always saved the day.

They would take him up.

NAARGH!

SUPERMAN. =HNNG= HOLD HIM!

Up and away.

It was the most destructive explosion ever unleashed on the world.

It was heard and felt across the planet.

Washington was gone in an instant.

And the blast kept growing.

Baltimore crumbled.

And finally...

...the last nail was Metropolis...

DAD...?

SHHH.

CLOSE YOUR EYES.

HOLD ON TO ME.

HOLD ON TO--

...and the hammer came down.

BOOM

IT'S TRUE.

APOKOLIPS.

THE WHOLE DAMN PLANET.

GOD WAR

GOD IS DEAD.

TO WAR

written by TOM TAYLOR pencilled by LAURA BRAGA (1-13, 20-28, 30-38) and DARICK ROBERTSON (14-19, 29) inked by RICHARD FRIEND (1-4, 6-9, 11, 13, 22, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33-38), TREVOR SCOTT (5, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 32), and DARICK ROBERTSON (14-19, 29) colored by RAIN BEREDO
lettered by SAIDA TEMOFONTE main cover RYAN SOOK
edited by BEN ABERNATHY

DARKSEID, THE ALL-KNOWING.

AND HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING.

MY FATHER IS GONE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

...PRETTY GOOD.

HONESTLY...

COME ON.

"WE NEED TO GO BACK..."

"...WE HAVE TO FACE WHAT GOD UNLEASHED ON EARTH."

HRRR.

HMMM.

NO RESPONSE TO AUDIBLE OR VISUAL STIMULI.

NO REACTION TO TOUCH OR TO PAIN.

NO NOTICEABLE CHANGE AFTER A SECONDARY EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS.

DEEP ANALYSIS OF THE VIRUS CODE SHOWS NO OBVIOUS FLAWS, AND I'M HESITANT TO ATTEMPT ANY CHANGE FOR FEAR OF CORRUPTION.

I HAVE FOURTEEN PHDs...AND I'M STUMPED.

THEY'RE BACK.

WE GO TO THE ORIGIN.

"WHERE DO WE EVEN START?"

"SERIOUSLY, LOOK OUT THERE, SCOTT.

DO WE JUST GO OUT AND START HITTING, OR...?

KNOCK KNOCK

WHOA!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GETTING THE DOOR?

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S NOT MONSTERS?

KNOCK KNOCK

I DON'T THINK THE UNDEAD KNOCK THAT POLITELY.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT'S A KNOCK. IT MIGHT JUST SOUND LIKE A KNOCK.

IT COULD BE A BLOODIED STUMP SMACKING AGAINST--

DING DONG

BLOODIED STUMP FOUND THE DOORBELL.

ANSWER THE DOOR.

MR. TERRIFIC.
BARDA.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WAS TRACKING THE PLANET FOR APOKOLIPTIAN TECHNOLOGY AND GOT A SPIKE.
SCOTT THOUGHT YOU WERE A BLOODIED STUMP.
VEGGIE PLATE.
I'VE INVESTIGATED THE VIRUS. IT'S APOKOLIPTIAN AT ITS CORE.
YOU'VE SEEN IT? I THOUGHT THAT WAS HOW THE INFECTION WAS SPREADING.
THE T-MASK PROTECTED ME FROM THE VIRUS.
DID YOU KNOW IT WOULD DO THAT?
NO.
YOU'RE ONE OF THE SMARTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD AND YOU...JUST GOT LUCKY?
YES.
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TAKE ME TO APOKOLIPS. IF WE CAN FIND EXACTLY WHERE THIS ORIGINATED, MAYBE I CAN--
APOKOLIPS IS GONE. THE WHOLE PLANET IS DESTROYED.
I SEE.
THEN WE MOVE ON. TO OTHER PLANS...

"...TO OTHER DESTINATIONS."

KORD INDUSTRIES.

THE UNDEAD ARE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

TEDDY.

IT'S OKAY, BOOSTER. THAT DOOR IS SOLID TITANIUM.

NOTHING IS GETTING--

BARDA?

HI.

WE'RE ALMOST DONE OUT HERE.

WANT SOME HELP?

SHLK

SHLK

SHLK

NO. I'D SAY WE'RE GOOD.

THD

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, BARDA.

YOU, TOO. I'D GIVE YOU A HUG, BUT I'M COVERED IN A LOT OF UNDEAD BITS.

I HAVE PART OF AN EAR IN MY TIGHTS.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

FIRST, WE NEED A SHOWER.

THEN WE NEED TO SAVE THE WORLD.

TO DO THAT, WE NEED TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.

IT REALLY IS THE END OF THE WORLD, ISN'T IT?

I'M HOPING WE STILL HAVE A SAY IN THAT.

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK WE DO?

WE'LL FIND OUT IN ENGLAND.

WHY NOT GO TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS A POWDER KEG.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE NEARBY IF THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION GAINS THE POWER OF WONDER WOMAN?

AH... NO.

THE ORIGIN OF THE VIRUS IS GONE. OUR NEXT OPTION IS MAGIC.

MAGIC IS NOTORIOUSLY UNRELIABLE. WHAT IF IT'S A DEAD END?

THERE IS A THIRD OPTION. BUT IT COULD GO VERY BADLY.

HOW BADLY?

I'D PREFER NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT YET. I...I DON'T WANT TO RISK ALL OF TIME AND SPACE TO SAVE HUMANITY.

NO. NO, THAT SOUNDS BAD.

LIVERPOOL

@#$%!

COLBYS

ALTERNATHYS

CLEARANCE SALE

@#$%!

@#$%!

POSSIBLE

@#$%!

CHAS!

TAXI

DTDB 219

CHAS! START THE CAR!

HRRR.

START THE BLOODY...!

HRR.

...RRR.

AW, MATE.

I'M SO SORRY.

WM

HRRRR!
HRR.
JESUS!
HRRR.
RSSHH
=GAH=
CLK
RRNN
TAXI
DTDB 219

CRACK

HOODOOONK

WHY DIDN'T I EVER LEARN TO DRIVE?

HOODOOONK

HUH?

KOOM

KOOM

KOOM

KO

JOHN CONSTANTINE.

OH, LOOK AT THIS. TWO MISTERS AND A BIG.

WHY CAN'T YOU PEOPLE GET REGULAR NAMES?

I MEAN, MR. TERRIFIC. WHAT KIND OF ARROGANT SOD IS COMFORTABLE WALKING AROUND WITH THAT HANGING AROUND HIM?

WHY NOT JUST CALL YOURSELF MISTER-FULL-OF-ME-BLOODY-SELF, AND BE DONE WITH IT?

PEACHY. JUST SET ME BEST MATE ON FIRE AND CRASHED HIS CAR WHILE SITTING ON HIS ASHES.

ARE YOU OKAY?

HOW'S YOUR DAY GOING?

MY ENTIRE PLANET WAS DESTROYED.

ALL RIGHT. IT'S NOT A COMPETITION.

HOW THE HELL DID YE FIND ME?

YOU HAVE A JUSTICE LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR WALLET. IT HAS A TRANSPONDER INSIDE.

IT WHAT?

I THOUGHT IT WAS LIKE A LIBRARY CARD.

JOHN. I CAN'T FIND A TECHNOLOGICAL FIX FOR THIS. I'M HOPING THERE COULD BE A MAGICAL ONE.

YOU THINK I CAN CLICK MY FINGERS AND MAKE ALL THIS GO AWAY?

NAH. I ALREADY TRIED. THIS IS BEYOND MAGIC. THIS IS "FIND SOMEWHERE WELL-STOCKED AND ENJOY WHAT'S LEFT" TIME.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP?

I'M GONNA HIDE AND GET SO IRRESPONSIBLY DRUNK I CAN BARELY FEEL ANYTHING. CARE TO JOIN ME?

WE HAVE A WORLD TO SAVE.

RIGHT. OFF YOU POP AND DO THAT, THEN.

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND...

YOU COULD.

I WON'T.

YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING, SUNSHINE.

@#$%^€* HEROES.

OUR MAGICIAN STEPPED INTO A PORTAL AND VANISHED.

YES. IT'S OPTION THREE.

WASN'T THAT THE OPTION THAT RISKS ALL OF TIME AND SPACE?

YES.

RIGHT. WHAT IS IT?

IT'S YOU.

BOOSTER GOLD. I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN SAVE HUMANITY.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SOME GREAT THINKER.

THINK BETTER.

YOU OWN A TIME MACHINE.

KIND OF. I STOLE A TIME MACHINE.

YOU CAN OPERATE IT?

YES.

WHERE IS IT?

IT'S IN SAFE HANDS. TEDDY...

"...WE'RE VISITING SOME OLD FRIENDS."

MALIBU. THE HOME OF FIRE AND ICE.

THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUGHT HARD.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE IN THERE.

TEDDY!

HRRGH!

CRT

GET TO THE HOUSE!!

SCOTT AND I WILL HOLD THEM OFF!

YOU'RE SURE?

GO!

HRRRN...

THERE ARE TOO MANY!

WE CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE.

GRKK.

WE ESCAPE AND THE PAST STAYS THE SAME. THE WORLD DIES.

HRRR.

WHAT A RIDICULOUS SENTENCE.

HGK.

GRKK.

I KNOW. WE HAVE TO KEEP FIGHTING.

WE HAVE TO GIVE BOOSTER GOLD A CHANCE TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE.

BUT IF HE CAN TURN BACK TIME. IF HE CAN FIND A WAY...

...

HRRRR.

GRKK.

I LIKE CHER.

GRKK.

HGK.

ARE YOUR LAST WORDS REALLY GOING TO BE QUOTING CHER?

THIS WAY!

DOWN HERE.

cNk

MICHAEL CARTER.

OH NO.

YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CHANGE TIME.

WAVERIDER.

WHO?

HE'S A LINEAR MAN.

WE'RE ALL LINEAR MEN, SURELY?

HE'S A MASTER OF TIME.

AND WE'RE NOT GETTING PAST HIM.

A POCKET DIMENSION. THE OBLIVION BAR.
ACCESSIBLE ONLY TO POWERFUL MAGIC USERS.

WHAT CAN I GET YOU, JOHN?

BOBO. GIVE ME THE BOTTLE FROM THE TOP SHELF THAT MADE THE PHANTOM STRANGER FORGET HIS OWN NAME.

IT'S THAT BAD OUT THERE?

NO. IT'S WAY WORSE.

BOLLOCKS.

TELL ANYONE WHO ASKS THAT I WAS OUT OF MY SCONE WHEN I DECIDED TO DO THIS.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO BE A #$%^€#! HERO.

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST, MICHAEL CARTER. THE MACHINE WILL BE CONFISCATED AND YOU WILL--

O!

TAKE A GOOD LOOK, SPARKLE-FACE!

CAN YOU SEE MY FUTURE?

...

NO?

NO.

NOW WATCH THE HAND CLOSELY.

WHAT IS THIS?

THIS IS CALLED MISDIRECTION.

YEAH! YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING, DID YE, TIME LORD?
THAT WAS...
THAT WAS SODDING MAGIC!
I KNEW YOU'D COME.
OF COURSE YOU DID, SMARTY-PANTS. NOW DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO. I'LL HOLD OFF SHINY HAIR HERE.

HRRRR!

CR

HKK!

@#$%!

CONSTANTINE!!

THD

HRRR.

NARGH!

SLAM

BLOODY HELL!

BOOSTER. GO. GO NOW!

HNNG

WHAT'S WRONG? GET UP!

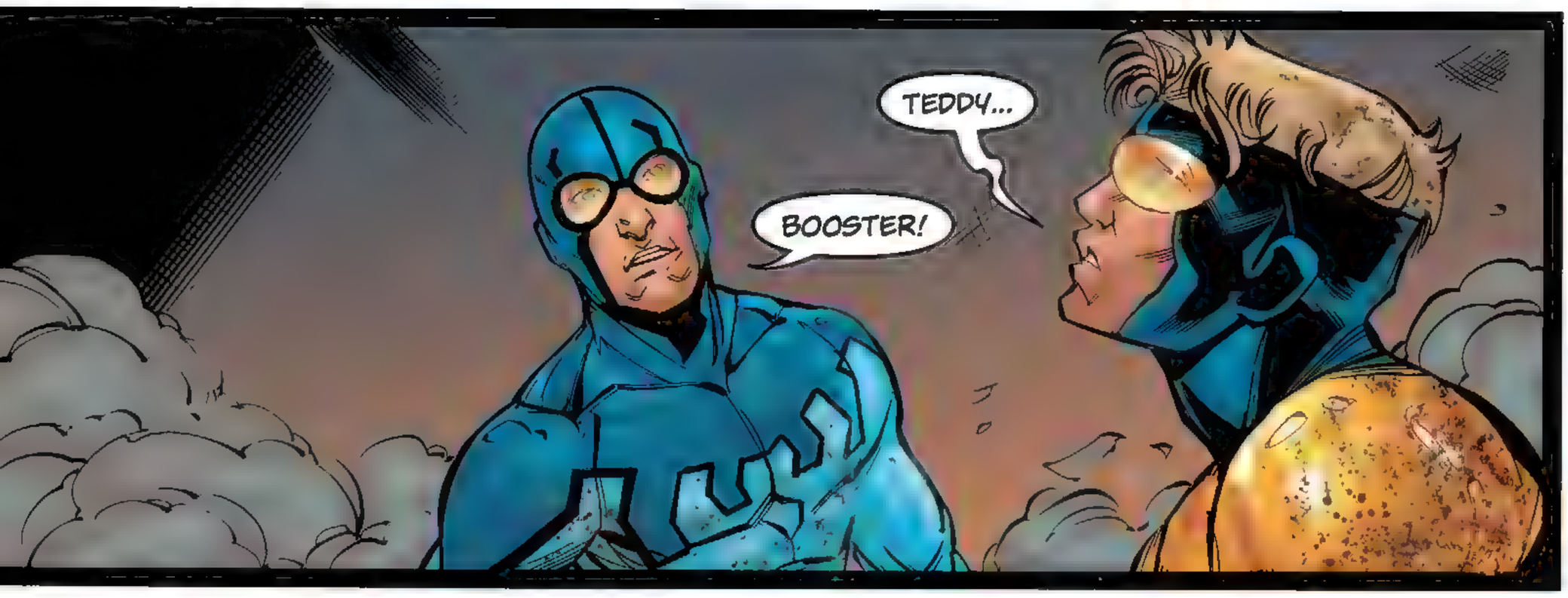
I FEEL...

IT IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THE END.

KAL-EL OF KRYPTON HAS FOUND BARRY ALLEN OF EARTH IN THE RUBBLE OF KEYSTONE CITY.


TEDDY...
BOOSTER!

I THINK...I THINK WE JUST LOST THE FUTURE.
I DON'T THINK I WAS EVER BORN.

WHAT? NO!
STAY HERE, MAN. STAY--
I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY I'LL NEVER KNOW YOU, TEDDY

SHLK

AGHH!!

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO GO.

YOU GET TO JUST WALK AWAY?

YOU HAPPY THIS IS THE BLOODY TIMELINE YOU CHOOSE TO PROTECT?

NO. I AM FAR FROM HAPPY.

GOODBYE, JOHN CONSTANTINE. I DON'T KNOW IF WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

OH WE'LL MEET AGAIN. I'LL FIND YOU, @#$%.

ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW WHAT?

YOU'VE THOROUGHLY PISSED ME OFF.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? WHY CAN'T I MOVE?

BECAUSE WE'RE BOUND TOGETHER.

LET GO!

NOPE. YOU'RE STUCK HERE WITH ME. AND I CAN SEE OUR FUTURE...

...IT'S SHORT.

HUH?

EZEERF!

JOHN CONSTANTINE.

TI SI REVO, NHOJ.

ZATANNA?

IT IS NOT YOUR TIME. ANOTHER FATE AWAITS YOU.

ANOTHER...?

OH, YOU WANKER!

CNK

OW. SONNUVA...

BRUTE FORCE CANNOT HARM THE HELM.

ALSO, IT'S MADE OF METAL. SO, YOU KNOW, PUNCHING IT IS A BAD IDEA TO START WITH.

I GET A LAST-SECOND RESCUE, BUT ACTUAL HEROES HAVE TO DIE?

BOBO TOLD US WHERE YOU'D GONE. I'M SORRY WE DIDN'T GET HERE SOONER.

THAT GUY'S NAME WAS MR. TERRIFIC. AND HE SODDING EARNED IT!

I'M SORRY. THIS WAS THEIR FATE.

OH, SHUT IT. NOT A BIG BELIEVER IN DESTINY, MATE.

TAKES ALL THE HUMAN OUT OF IT.

THE WORLD IS ENDING, JOHN CONSTANTINE. WE MUST PREPARE FOR WHAT COMES NEXT.

THE LORDS OF CHAOS AND ORDER--

CAN EAT A GIANT BAG OF BOLLOCKS.

THE WORLD ISN'T OVER UNTIL I SAY IT IS.

Superman. Wonder Woman. They'd protected us so many times before.

No matter how dark the day, we saw them and knew hope.

But they couldn't protect us from this.

Three cities. Gone. Just...gone.

Washington. Baltimore...

METROPOLIS.

Millions and millions of people. Gone in an instant...

...and one small bubble of survivors.

Grateful to be alive.

Ashamed, when everything else had died.

Well, not everything...

It's amazing what cockroaches can survive.

SUPERMAN!

LUTHOR. BY RAO, IF YOU SO MUCH AS--

TRUCE!

I AM NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU, SUPERMAN. I AM NOT HERE TO ADD TO...

LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR CITY.

Over the next few days, we took down the internet.

Every major server in every country.

Every mass digital broadcasting device.

Everything we'd relied on was severed.

So the only way for the virus to spread was through people.

THEMYSCIRA.

Two major sanctuaries were established for the survivors. Places we believed the infected couldn't reach.

DIANA. THINK OF WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.

WE HAVE NEVER ALLOWED MAN'S WORLD TO SET FOOT ON--

PHILIPPUS, SOON THERE WON'T BE ANY OF MAN'S WORLD LEFT!

WE WILL BE ALONE ON OUR ISLAND, SURROUNDED BY DEATH, WITH THE INEVITABLE CLOSING IN.

WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTORS.

IT IS TIME WE OFFERED PROTECTION HERE.

Wonder Woman, Superman, and Queen Mera lifted sections of the seafloor.

They added landmass to Themyscira for the refugees of the world.

And Paradise Island was paradise no more.

The Gotham jungle grew in a week.

Nothing penetrated its thorn-filled walls.

It was obvious who sheltered inside.

We hoped she'd agree to help.

LET ME DO THE TALKING ONCE WE'RE IN THERE.

ARE YOU SURE, DAMIAN? YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY A PEOPLE PERSON.

IVY'S NOT EXACTLY PEOPLE.

RRRR.

RRRRH!

CROC!

OUT OF THE WAY. I'LL--!

STING

AUGH

HUH?

DINAH! CUT US FREE!

DON'T!

WHAT?

DON'T HARM THE PLANTS!

YEAH...

GOOD CALL, BATBOY.

HEY, LOOK AT THAT. WE KILLED KILLER CROC.

HOW AWESOME IS THE DEATH WALL?

AWESOME IS NOT THE WORD I'D USE.

WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY IS A ROBIN DRESSED AS A TINY BATMAN?

BATMAN'S GONE.

WHAT?

I AM... SORRY.

PAMELA. WE ARE LOOKING FOR SANCTUARY FOR SURVIVORS.

OH. THAT.

YEAH, WE'VE ALREADY STARTED THIS CONVERSATION.

I WOULDN'T CALL IT A "CONVERSATION". HARLEY HAS BEEN *NAGGING* ME INCESSANTLY--

COME ON, RED. I KNOW YOU HAVE SOME EMPATHY BLOOMING IN YOUR HEART.

I'LL STOP NAGGING AS SOON AS YOU AGREE TO BE A ***BENEVOLENT*** JUNGLE QUEEN.

THERE WILL BE RULES.

YES!

THE FRUIT OF THE GREEN WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE EATEN AS THE GREEN WILLS IT.

BUT IF ***ANY HUMAN*** HARMS THE GREEN, THEY WILL BE EXPELLED AND FED TO THE MONSTERS.

SEEMS HARSH.

WE WILL AGREE TO ANY TERMS.

Cyborg and Luthor were able to engineer closed communications. The Fortress of Solitude was set up as a new information hub.

And as a new hall of heroes.

And we got to work.

THIS IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE, VICTOR. WHY HAVE WE NEVER WORKED TOGETHER BEFORE?

YOU KEPT TRYING TO KILL ME AND MY FRIENDS.

SURE. BUT IN MY DEFENSE, THAT WAS BEFORE I REALIZED YOU COULD BE USEFUL.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?

PLANS.

FOR WHAT?

FOR *ARKS.*

THE ARKS WILL FIT SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE.

WE'RE NOT LEAVING.

SUPERMAN. I AM THE MOST INTELLIGENT PERSON ON THE PLANET AND...

WAIT. BATMAN IS DEAD, YES?

YES.

RIGHT. THEN I AM THE MOST INTELLIGENT PERSON ON THE PLANET AND I'M TELLING YOU...

...THE WORLD IS OVER. IT'S INEVITABLE.

IF THE HUMAN RACE IS TO SURVIVE, IT HAS TO LEAVE THE EARTH.

WE'RE NOT *ABANDONING* THIS PLANET.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR IT!

SON...CLARK. IF IT'S THE ONLY WAY...

MA. IT CAN'T BE.

LOSING TWO HOMEWORLDS IN ONE LIFETIME.

HOW CARELESS.

LEX...

FFF

@*€% YOU, LUTHOR.

OPEN YOUR MOUTH AGAINST MY HUSBAND AGAIN AND I WILL SMASH IT CLOSED AGAIN. UNDERSTAND?

WE NEED YOUR MIND. WE SURE AS HELL DON'T NEED YOU FOR ANYTHING ELSE.

UM... VIOLENCE IS NEVER THE ANSWER, JON.

IT LOOKED LIKE A PRETTY GOOD ANSWER JUST THEN.

Over the next few weeks, we located survivors and brought them to safety.

To the Gotham jungle...

WELCOME TO PARADISE. DON'T STEP ON THE GRASS.

SERIOUSLY. DON'T.

...and to the island of Themyscira.

We began building the arks.

And for the first time, we took time to talk, and to grieve.

For a while, it felt like we were in control...

...we were never in control.

Our mistake was bringing all the heroes together.

It started as a buzz.

UM... ANYONE ELSE HEAR THAT?

Then, it grew to a scream.

HNNN.

HNNG!

A scream in our minds.

NARGHH!

Followed by invisible death.

KNIGHT

WHAT IS THAT?

CAN ANYONE SEE ANYTHING?

NARRRGH!

MARTIAN MANHUNTER...

BARRY!!

HRRR!

MOVE!

CRACK

REEEEEEEEEE

HE'S DONE.

BARRY? WHERE DID HE GO?

HE'S RUNNING.

I'LL GET HIM.

NO.

IF YOU'RE TURNED TOO, WALLY...

I'LL GO.

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU CAN CATCH HIM?

NO.

It's hard to explain how quickly someone moving at super-speed can infect the world.

Death spreading faster than the speed of sound.

CYBORG. FLASH IS DEAD?

HE IS.

PROMISE ME.

I PROMISE.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CATCH UP TO HIM?

I DON'T HAVE TO CATCH UP TO HIM.

I CAN COME FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

I CAN MEET HIM...

...HEAD ON.

That day, we found out what happens when the unstoppable force meets the immovable object...

BARRY. I'M SO SORRY.

I'M...

...they merge.

I don't know how long Superman had. His body could obviously fight the infection longer than others. I don't know how long it seemed to him.

A man who can move at those speeds...

But with the time he had left...

...he crossed the world.

WALLY.

SUPERMAN?

BARRY'S GONE. I'M SORRY.

AND... SO AM I.

OH NO.

I NEED YOU TO CONNECT LOIS, MA, AND JON TO THE SPEED FORCE. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?

I CAN.

He was supposed to be immortal.

OH, CLARK.

SMALLVILLE?

DAD?

MA.

THANK YOU. FOR FINDING ME.

FOR RAISING ME.

FOR TEACHING ME.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME YOUR NAME...

...AND YOUR VALUES, AND YOUR EMPATHY.

MY WORLD ENDED.

AND YOU AND PA GAVE ME ANOTHER ONE.

LOIS.

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO REGRETS.

I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT SO LUCKY.

I CROSSED AN OCEAN OF STARS AND SOMEHOW I FOUND YOU.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING ME.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING ME.

JON.

I KNOW THINGS LOOK DARK...

...BUT YOU'RE THE LIGHT. YOU'RE THE HOPE.

YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE THE UNIVERSE, I KNOW IT.

NO PRESSURE.

JUST KEEP HELPING.

YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES. YOU WILL FAIL SOMETIMES. BUT I WILL ALWAYS, *ALWAYS* BE PROUD OF YOU.

I'VE SEEN SO MUCH OF THE UNIVERSE...

...YOU'RE THE BEST THING IN IT.

"YOU. MY FAMILY. THANK YOU FOR BEING MY WORLD."

He tried.

He tried to leave.

To get as far away from Earth as he could.

To starve himself of oxygen before the virus could...

Maybe, if he hadn't stopped to speak to us.

If he hadn't...

Then, Clark...

...my **husband** was gone.

And any hope our world had was gone with him.

HOPE

L O S T

WRITER: TOM TAYLOR PENCILER: TREVOR HAIRSINE
INKER: STEFANO GAUDIANO COLORIST: RAIN BEREDO
LETTERER: SAIDA TEMOFONTE MAIN COVER BY JOSHUA MIDDLETON
EDITOR: BEN ABERNATHY

BROOKS

Faster than a speeding bullet.

More powerful than a locomotive.

432 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK
THE LARGEST RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN THE WORLD
1,396 FEET IN THE AIR

Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

But Clark had a much greater power.

Every single person who saw him was filled with hope.

Look.

Up in the sky...

END OF THE WORLD

WRITER TOM TAYLOR
PENCILLERS TREVOR HAIRSINE
1-5, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 25, 28, 36
INKER NEIL EDWARDS
6, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 26, 27
INKER STEFANO GAUDIANO
COLORIST RAIN BEREDO
LETTERER SAIDA TEMOFONTE
COVER MARK BROOKS
EDITOR BEN ABERNATHY

All hope was lost at 11:48 a.m.

FAK

It was a Wednesday.

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.

IF SUPERMAN HAS TURNED, THEN THAT'S IT. IT'S OVER.

THE ARKS ARE READY. WE NEED TO LEAVE EARTH. NOW.

SUPERMAN CAN TAKE DOWN BOTH ARKS IN A HEARTBEAT.

WE NEED TO TAKE HIM ON.

HOW?

WITH THIS.

BATMAN LEFT A TAKEDOWN PLAN FOR EVERY MAJOR HERO.

OF COURSE HE DID. BRUCE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE ALIVE TO SCHEME AGAINST US ALL.

ACTUALLY... HE, UH, DIDN'T LEAVE ONE FOR YOU.

BRUCE DIDN'T THINK I COULD BE DANGEROUS?

YOU'RE HURT BATMAN DIDN'T HAVE A POST-MORTEM MACHIAVELLIAN PLAN TO END YOU?

WELL, YEAH.

I COULD BE A PLANETARY THREAT IF I WANTED TO.

OF COURSE YOU COULD, DEAR.

HMMM. IT APPEARS MASTER BRUCE STOCKED YOUR BELT HIMSELF, MASTER DAMIAN.

RIGHT HIP POCKET.

KRYPTONITE.

THESE SCHEMATICS...

WOULD TURN THE KRYPTONITE INTO A SUPPRESSING GAS. IF WE BUILD THIS, IT WILL CERTAINLY SLOW SUPERMAN DOWN.

THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

MY FATHER KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING. WE SHOULD TRUST HIM ON--

BRUCE WAS A LOT OF THINGS.

BUT HE WAS NEVER LETHAL.

IT WAS ADMIRABLE.

BUT WE CAN'T HOLD BACK NOW.

YOU HAVE A BETTER SOLUTION?

OF COURSE. YOU THINK BATMAN'S THE ONLY ONE WITH ENOUGH SENSE TO PLOT AGAINST HIS FRIENDS?

DINAH. VIC. WITH ME.

EVERYONE ELSE, TO THE ARKS.

ONE TO THOSE SHELTERING IN IVY'S JUNGLE IN GOTHAM.

THE OTHER TO THEMYSCIRA.

As the arks took off, their defenders prepared.

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE
KAL-EL'S FORGE

CLARK IS VULNERABLE TO KRYPTONITE. AND TO MAGIC.

YEARS AGO, MY MOTHER AND I HYPOTHESIZED WE COULD JOIN THE TWO.

CNK CNK CNK

YOU'RE SURE IT WILL WORK?

THIS IS THE SWORD OF ATHENA.

ATHENA WAS THE GODDESS OF WAR.

AND WE FIGHT FOR EVERYTHING.

LAST, SHE WAS GODDESS OF MATHEMATICS.

SHE WAS THE GODDESS OF CRAFT.

AND WE HAVE FUSED MYTHOLOGY WITH AN ELEMENT FROM A WORLD THAT NO LONGER EXISTS.

AND WE ARE FIGHTING AN EQUATION.

THIS IS NOT COINCIDENCE.

I BELIEVE I HOLD FATE IN MY HANDS.

THE GOTHAM JUNGLE.

We had a day. Less than a day. The two arks could hold a maximum of seven million each.

Each of us knew what that meant.

THAT'S EVERYONE ON BOARD. SIX MILLION, FOUR THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED-AND NINE PEOPLE.

TIME FOR US ALL TO GO.

NO.

IVY?

I'M NOT ABANDONING THE GREEN.

AND I'M NOT ABANDONING HER.

We were leaving so many behind.

We only had two arks. And we had no time.
Attempting to save more would have meant disaster.

ALL ABOARD.

THEMYSCIRA.

We had to find a way to live with what we were doing.
Or no one would live at all.

QUEEN HIPPOLYTA! QUEEN MERA!

WHAT IS IT, PHILIPPUS?

YOUR MAJESTIES. SOMETHING IS HAPPENING...

...OUT AT SEA.

MOVE THE EVACUATION TO HIGH GROUND.

READY YOUR WARRIORS AROUND THE ARK AND THE REFUGEES.

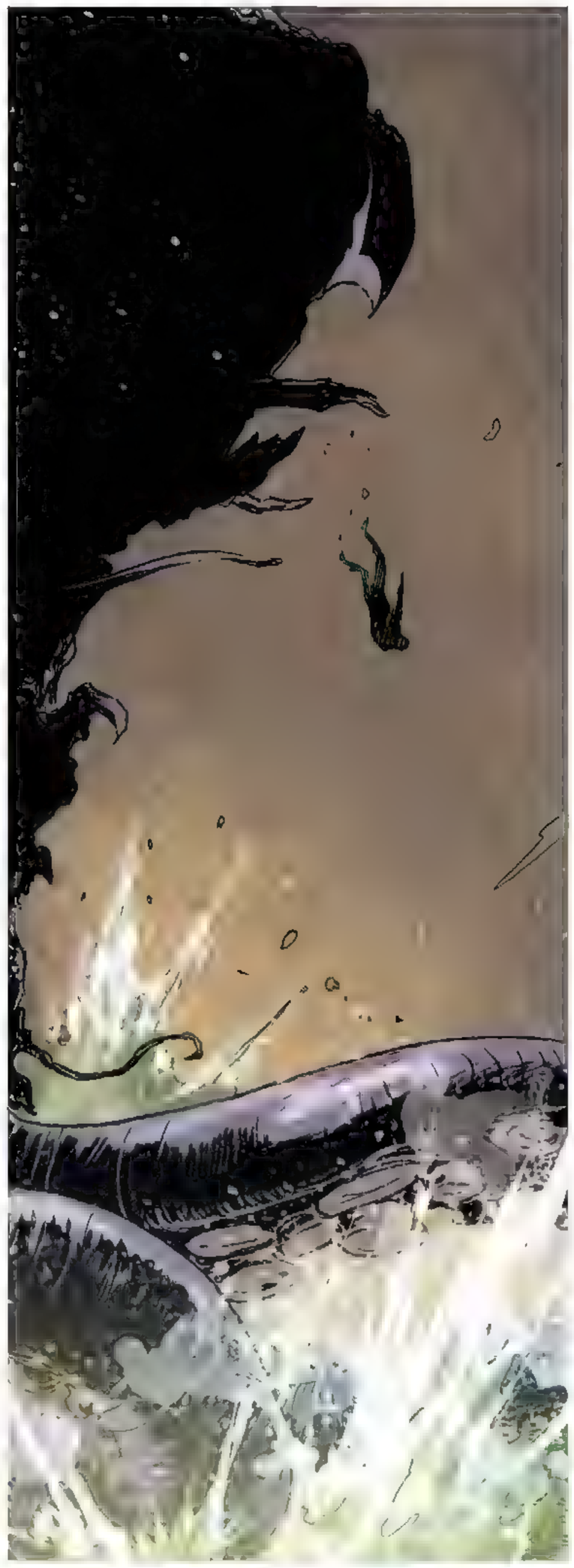
WHAT IS IT? A STORM?

NO. IT'S A TEMPEST.

ARTHUR.

HRRRR!

THE KRAKEN!



AND BATMAN DIDN'T THINK I COULD BE DANGEROUS...
JUST FIRED AN ARROW HALF-A-MILE THROUGH RAGING WINDS INTO THE BRAIN OF THE UNDEAD KING OF THE SEA WHILE HE WAS CONTROLLING THE DAMN KRAKEN.

@#¢% YOU, BATMAN.

The infected Atlanteans shouldn't have been able to set foot on Paradise Island.

They shouldn't have been able to find it.

PHILIPPUS. GO!

But when we raised the seafloor and extended the island for refugees, Themyscira was no longer hidden, no longer safe from the outside.

A wave of monsters came from the sea...

...where it broke against two warrior queens.

But they weren't alone.

GOOD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, WONDER GIRL. ARE YOU READY?

I'M READY, ANTIOPE.

ATTACK!!

They charged.

And without fear, the Amazons of Themyscira crashed into the dead of the deep.

HALF A WORLD AWAY.

WELL, HE WASN'T HARD TO FIND.

CYBORG. IS ANYONE ALIVE DOWN THERE?

NO. NO LIFE SIGNS. AT ALL.

OKAY. THEN I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.

HRARGH!

They were the fiercest warriors on the planet.

But nothing could prepare them for this.

HNNG!

They had trained and battled together for thousands of years.

They had beaten myths and legends. Giants and gods.

Still, they fought as friends and lovers fell.

ANTIOPE!!

They fought as allies rose again as foes.

HRAGH!

THAT'S THE LAST OF THE REFUGEES.

YOUR MAJESTY. WE HAVE TO GO!

THE AMAZONS...

MERA. THERE'S NO EXTRACTING THEM FROM THAT.

CASSIE. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE.

SURE. BUT YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, YOUR MAJESTY.

NO.

TELL DIANA... TELL MY DAUGHTER THE PROMISE OF THEMYSCIRA IS HERS TO HONOR NOW.

They stayed so millions could flee.

The Amazons fell.

But they fell fighting. They fell for all of us.

Paradise held off oblivion.

HRR!

PRETTY BIRD.

THE ARKS HAVE TAKEN OFF.

WE LOST... A LOT OF AMAZONS FELL. BUT WE'RE AWAY.

DINAH!

CRRK CRK

CRRRKK

HRARR!

Our defenders did so much to protect us.

They risked everything.

RRR!

But they were up against so much power.

Power without hesitation.

=HNG=

RAGH

NO!

But that's all they could do.

Power without remorse.

They bought us time.

DIANA!

SUPERMAN. HE'S GONE. YOU...KNOW WHERE.

HE'S SEEN... SEEN THE ARKS.

YOU HAVE TO *STOP* HIM.

IT'S OKAY. I'VE GOT HER.

I'LL STAY WITH HER UNTIL...

VIC? YOU CAN'T STAY. YOU--

THE VIRUS STARTED WITH ME, DINAH. I WAS NEVER COMING WITH YOU.

GO...

"...GET TO THE ARKS."

DAMIAN...

I never wanted my son to have to be a hero.

HE'S COMING. MY DAD.

THAT'S NOT YOUR FATHER.

YEAH... YEAH, I KNOW.

Our children... we're supposed to protect them.

CAN I DO ANYTHING?

LOOK AFTER MOM FOR ME, YEAH?

OF COURSE.

YOU'RE GONNA BE A GREAT BATMAN.

We're the ones who are supposed to fight for their future...

JON?

IT'S OKAY, MOM.

I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

...but he was the only one who could fight for ours.

Jon was the only one standing between the last survivors of Earth and extinction.

Clark would have been so proud of him.

He was a child.

Trying to hold back death.

My son couldn't stop that.

But he bought us one precious minute.

And in that minute...

ATTENTION, GREEN LANTERN OF SECTOR 2814.

...the cavalry arrived.

SERIOUSLY, DINAH?

GLIY GARDNER?

I LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR, LIKE, A MONTH, AND THE WHOLE PLACE GOES TO HELL.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THE GUARDIANS AND THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS ARE QUARANTINING EARTH.

WHICH... ISN'T GREAT. THIS IS OUR SPACE SECTOR. LOSING OUR WHOLE WORLD REFLECTS PRETTY BADLY ON ALL OF US.

YOU'RE JOKING. AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

HEY. I MIGHT NOT HAVE THE INCREDIBLE WILL OF HAL JORDAN OR THE STUNNING CREATIVITY OF KYLE RAYNER. BUT I AM A FREAKING MASTER AT MASKING MY EMOTIONAL TERROR WITH JOKES.

WHAT'S SUPERMAN DOING?

THAT'S NOT SUPERMAN.

AND IT'S THINKING. WORKING OUT IF IT CAN TAKE US ALL ON.

YOU'RE AN EQUATION.

DO THE MATH.

In that moment the Anti-Life Equation made a choice.

AFTER HIM.

It couldn't stand against the entire Corps, so it calculated another way to kill.

STOP.

WHAT'S IT DOING?

IT'S...

"IT'S...FEEDING. ABSORBING.

"DRAINING THIS SUN."

IN TIME, THIS ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM WILL GROW COLD AND DIE.

AND WE'RE JUST GOING TO LET IT?

EVEN GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT ISN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH TO REACH INTO THE HEART OF A STAR.

PERHAPS IT IS FOR THE BEST. WE CANNOT WIPE OUT THE VIRUS DIRECTLY. WE CANNOT RISK EXPOSURE. BUT IF THIS SYSTEM FREEZES, THE VIRUS WILL SLEEP.

WE WILL MONITOR THIS SUN AND YOUR WORLD.

BUT IT IS TIME TO MOVE THE SURVIVORS.

IT IS TIME FOR A NEW WORLD. IT IS TIME FOR HUMANITY TO LEAVE ITS BIRTHPLACE...

"...LIFE HAS LOST HERE."

HRARGH!

WAIT! I HAVE A QUESTION.

THE LASSO OF TRUTH COMPELS YOU.

CAN YOU SPEAK?

WE HAVE A VOICE.

IS THERE A WAY TO STOP YOU?

WE ARE DEATH.

NOTHING CAN STOP DEATH.

YOU ARE A VIRUS.

IS THERE A CURE?

YES.

WHAT IS IT?

WHERE IS IT?!

HRRRNG.

WHERE?!

THE CURE IS IN YOU.

YOU ARE MAN AND MACHINE. YOU ARE BINARY. OFF AND ON.

PATIENT ZERO AND THE ONE. THE ALPHA. THE OMEGA.

BUT... THAT MEANS... EVERYONE WE FOUGHT. EVERYONE WE ENDED...THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE.

EVERY-THING DIES.

THE ARKS.

I HAVE TO REACH THE ARKS. THEY HAVE TO KNOW--

NARG!

LIFE IS FLEETING.

THAT IS THE ONLY TRUTH.

DEATH IS FOREVER.

My mother used to tell me there was no such thing as monsters.

There was nothing hiding in the dark.

Nothing was going to jump out of the shadows.

I wish I could have told my child the same thing.

But by the time he was grown, he'd faced too many monsters.

I didn't know what was waiting in the dark ahead of us.

There was one thing I did know...

As we looked on our new world for the first time. Our new start. Our Earth 2...

...I knew the monsters were behind us now.

THE END

DCEASED: A GOOD DAY TO DIE #1
VARIANT COVER BY KAARE ANDREWS

***DCEASED* #1 VARIANT COVER BY FRANCESCO MATTINA**

DCEASED #2 VARIANT COVER BY FRANCESCO MATTINA

DCEASED #3 VARIANT COVER BY FRANCESCO MATTINA

DCEASED #4 VARIANT COVER BY FRANCESCO MATTINA

DCEASED #5 VARIANT COVER BY FRANCESCO MATTINA

DCEASED #6 VARIANT COVER
BY FRANCESCO MATTINA

DCEASED: A GOOD DAY TO DIE #1 VARIANT COVER BY FRANCESCO MATTINA

DCEASED #1 MOVIE HOMAGE VARIANT COVER BY YASMINE PUTRI

IF IVY DOESN'T WAKE UP SCREAMING
SHE WON'T WAKE UP AT ALL.

DC COMICS'

DCeased

IN GOTHAM

DCEASED #2 MOVIE HOMAGE VARIANT COVER BY YASMINE PUTRI

WITNESS THE DARKEST CHAPTER IN THE DC UNIVERSE

DCEASED

***DCEASED* #3 MOVIE HOMAGE VARIANT COVER BY YASMINE PUTRI**

DCEASED #4 MOVIE HOMAGE VARIANT COVER BY TASIA M S

FROM THE CREATORS OF THE **DCEASED** UNIVERSE

SHE WANTS YOUR CHILDREN.

THE CURSE OF DCEASED

TAYLOR · HAIRSINE · GAUDIANO · BEREDO

DCEASED #5 MOVIE HOMAGE VARIANT COVER BY YASMINE PUTRI

They Kill So Fast
You Won't Have Time To Scream.

DCEASED #6 MOVIE HOMAGE VARIANT COVER BY YASMINE PUTRI

DCEASED

TAYLOR • HAIRSINE • GAUDIANO • BEREDO

THE DCEASENING

BASED ON THE TRUE CASE FILES OF THE WAYNES

DCEASED: A GOOD DAY TO DIE #1 MOVIE HOMAGE VARIANT COVER BY YASMINE PUTRI

ORIGINAL DCEASED PITCH AND SERIES OUTLINE BY TOM TAYLOR

Issue 1: Going Viral

A battle rages on Earth.

The heroes of Earth have managed to repel Darkseid's latest attack.

But he isn't done. He has finally succeeded in his goal. For years he has believed half of the anti-life equation resided on Earth. And now, he has found it—inside Cyborg. Vic Stone is the perfect hybrid of Apokoliptan science and human evolution, and his system has, unknown to him, finished the calculation.

Darkseid "retreats" to Apokolips. He takes Cyborg with him.

Desaad gets to work. Using Darkseid's half of the equation, he adds it to Cyborg.

To properly merge the anti-life equation with the digital and the physical without destroying the host, he also takes a piece of the Black Racer, death himself, and binds to Cyborg.

But this inclusion corrupts, and creates a different kind of anti-life equation. One not created to breed slaves for Darkseid, but to breed slaves to steal life from every being they infect.

With horror, Desaad, immune to disease, watches Darkseid himself fall to the technovirus.

Desaad sends Cyborg away through a Boom Tube, but it's too late. Darkseid is unleashed. The infected god unleashes on their world.

The Highfather sees this from New Genesis.

He sees what is to come, what will be if this spreads.

He destroys Apokolips.

Darkseid is...

...No more.

Cyborg is boomed back to Earth. Vic Stone is Patient Zero.

As soon as he's returned, his system automatically accesses the internet. And the virus he carries is uploaded.

Realizing with horror what is happening, Cyborg firewalls himself, cutting himself off from the world, but it's too late.

The technovirus attacks through social media. A disease which bridges the digital divide and reprograms the minds of all who encounter it.

The first hack the virus makes in brains forces people to share and Retweet the original virus online.

And then it attacks the mind. As it takes hold, people claw at their heads—trying to remove the bug from their brains—this means the infected are all mutilated and bloodied. And then they are simply carriers.

The virus wants to breed. No longer contained to the internet, it also spreads through blood.

——

Superman is flying lazily back from a rescue mission on the moon.

As he enters Earth's atmosphere, he hears the horror and screams around the world. He realizes it's spreading through the internet. Panicking, he speeds home. A sonic boom sounds as he crosses the world in a heartbeat to Metropolis.

Jon Kent is picking up a phone in their apartment. As he does, heat vision blasts through the window and melts the phone in his hand. Jon drops the molten phone in shock as Superman bursts through what's left of the window.

He's screaming out to Lois. She steps out of the bathroom, asking what's wrong.

She's not on a device or her computer.

Superman dashes around and tears out every power point.

He explains what's happening.

He has to get out there and help, but first he has to get his family to safety.

Lois isn't going anywhere. The public will need information. She needs to do her job. She wants to get to the Daily Planet. It has a radio broadcaster and an analogue television set-up. She wants to tell the world what's happening.

A series of tableaus—checking in with known heroes and villains.

Green Arrow and Black Canary were camping outside Metropolis when the virus hit. They drive back into Metropolis to find monsters and fend them off with arrows and Cries. Black Canary destroys the zombies where they stand.

A boat is tipped sideways, drifting on the ocean. Aquaman lands on the side of it and investigates. He calls out. Hears a noise. Opens the cabin, telling the people inside they'll be safe. They attack. Aquaman is bitten. He falls into the sea. He tears at his face. And is Zombified.

In Gotham, Harley comes to a warehouse with Ivy. Harley tells Ivy she should do this herself. She tells Ivy she'll meet her at the Gotham Greenhouse.

Harley enters the warehouse. It's Joker's latest hide-out. She's telling Mister J they're through. She doesn't want to see him again. They have no future together. No chance of a life together... which is lucky, because Joker is a zombie!

Superman takes Lois and Jon to the roof of the Planet. Using X-Ray vision, he identifies who in the building is a zombie and who isn't. He speeds through the building. Grabbing every Zombie and putting them on the street. He grabs the Daily Planet's dome and blocks the entrance with it.

Hearing Canary's cry, he finds Green Arrow and Black Canary fighting in the streets. He brings them to the Daily Planet.

A rumble and a lightning bolt slamming down in Metropolis alerts Superman to something else. Superman finds Black Lightning and his daughters fighting more zombie hordes. He brings them to Lois, Jon, Green Arrow and Black Canary. Lois gets to work, reactivating the radio system and analogue television broadcast.

Superman tells her he has to go. There are people who need him, but first he has to get to Smallville.

He says he'll assemble more Justice League members and other heroes, as soon as his parents are safe. That is, so long as Batman hasn't already assembled them.

Lois poses the question; what if Batman is already gone?

Despite it all, Superman smiles.

SUPERMAN:
We don't have to worry about Batman being on social media. He's not exactly social.

THE BATCAVE.
BATCOMPUTER:
Virus quarantined. Firewalls in place. All systems running on local intranet.

BATMAN:
Connect to the back-up analogue camera system. Show me Gotham.

We see monsters. Screams. Death.

BATMAN looks stunned.

BATMAN:
Run projections. How many infected.

BATCOMPUTER:
Based on average phone, tablet and PC use, taking timezones into account...

BATCOMPUTER:
An estimated 600 million world-wide.

BATCOMPUTER:
At the current exponential rate of internet dissemination, the virus will spread to almost every internet-connected device within days. Billions will be infected.

BATMAN:
Has the connection been disabled in the Manor?

BATCOMPUTER:
No.

BATMAN:
Do it. Now!

METROPOLIS.
LOIS:
We can't rely on Batman. He could be gone, Clark.

SUPERMAN:
No. He's Batman.

LOIS:
And, what? You think Batman can intimidate a virus?

SUPERMAN:
I've learned never to underestimate Bruce.

THE MANOR
Batman is walking the halls. He calls out for Alfred. He hears nothing. And then a cry.

ALFRED:
Master Bruce!

Batman is racing through the halls. He finds ALFRED, in a kitchen holding a knife.

BATMAN:
Alfred?

Suddenly, Bruce is pounced on by two zombified Robins, Tim and Damian. Batman throws Tim off, but Damian sinks his teeth into Batman's neck.

END OF ISSUE 1

AND THEN...

Atlantis.

Mera and Aqualad are talking in the throne room. The sea begins to turn red above them.

Zombie Aquaman is tearing into Atlanteans. Sharks surround him, attracted by the blood in the water. It's a feeding frenzy of sharks and Sea King.

The blood starts infecting every Atlantean it touches as they breathe it in.

Mera watches with horror as Aqualad is infected by the blood in the water, then Mera uses her power over the water and pushes Zombie Aquaman, the feeding frenzy and the blood away.

She flees in the other direction.

Superman asks the heroes in the Daily Planet to keep his family safe. Green Arrow sets up on the roof with Black Canary and Black Lightning—ready to repel anything that comes their way.

Superman leaves for Smallville—he tries to block out the screams as he goes, but it's impossible. Despite his parents possibly being in trouble, Superman can't ignore the cries for help. He stops and saves the day repeatedly as he moves slowly towards Smallville.

Eventually, Clark speeds into Smallville. He shows up at his parents' home at night. Using his X-Ray vision, he quickly finds Martha. She's standing outside their barn with a shovel.

CLARK:
Ma!

Martha looks scared. Emotional. She's clearly in shock.

CLARK:
Where's Pa?

MARTHA:
He's... Clark. He's inside.

She looks at the shovel in her hand.

MARTHA:
I hit him, Clark. He fell.

A concerned Clark enters the barn.

The lead door of the barn cellar rattles—the place where Superman's capsule is hidden.

Clark opens the cellar door and Jonathan Kent lurches out.

With tears in his eyes, Clark gently pushes his father back into the cellar, ignoring his clawing and biting.

He closes the door. Seals it with heat vision. He looks to his mother. He gently picks her up. And flies away from Smallville.

Lois has the radio system working at the Daily Planet. She is broadcasting, explaining all she can, reporting to whoever can hear her. Green Arrow, Black Canary and Black Lightning deal with any Zombies trying to climb the building.

Superman makes it back to the Daily Planet with Martha. Wordlessly, Lois understands what's happened. She hugs Clark, and then takes Martha aside. Jon asks what happened to grandpa. Superman hugs him. He breaks down.

Then, Batman makes contact. He's found Lois' radio signal. He tells them he's almost out of time. Being already infected, he's examined his own blood and looked at the trigger.

SUPERMAN:
What do you mean "being already infected"?

In the Batcave, a large trophy cabinet is smashed. A suit is missing. Batman is inside a Mister Freeze suit. He's using the cold to slow down his metabolism, slowing the virus within him. But it will soon take over.

CLARK:
Bruce...

BRUCE:
There's literally no time for sentiment. The trigger is an equation.

GREEN ARROW:
I always knew math would doom us all.

BATMAN:
It's a digital/biological hybrid spreading across the internet. To save the world, you're going to have to destroy the internet.

GREEN ARROW:
I always suspected we'd have to destroy the internet to save the world. I just didn't know it would be like this.

BRUCE stops talking. Superman tries to talk to him...but he's gone.

There's a moment of silence in the Daily Planet.

Back in the cave, Zombified Bat-Freeze lurches for the manor.

Alfred is standing. Ready. Horrified. Sad. But ready.

As Batman comes for him, Alfred does what he knows he must. He shoots his son.

Dropping the gun in disgust. Alfred looks at the screens on the BatComputer. Looking at the analogue feed of the monsters taking over Gotham.

Raging, Alfred takes the Batwing out into the night.

Furious, hurt, and on a mission, he begins to bomb the infected of Gotham from the skies.

Harley Quinn hears the bombs dropping. She's running down an alley. An uninfected person in front of her is shooting at onrushing zombies. He falls, dropping his shotgun. Harley picks it up and keeps running. A zombie is gaining on her. The Joker, zombified, is coming right for her. Harley is suddenly through running. She turns.

HARLEY:
Mister J.

Click.

HARLEY:
You were never any good for me.

Bang!

Harley walks away. Coldly. That life is over.

Casually shooting zombies as she goes, Harley heads to the Gotham Greenhouse—where she said she'd meet Ivy. But, as she nears it, several shadows drop from the rooftops around her.

Batgirl, Huntress, Batwoman—a hunting pack. The Zombie Birds of Prey. (I'll try to find a couple more to add to this—someone powered would be good).

THEMYSCIRA.
The Amazons are all alerted as someone steps onto their shores.

Mera didn't know where else to come. Her city is gone. Her people are gone. The virus hasn't touched the island as there's no internet. Hippolyta takes her fellow queen in. Wonder Woman joins them and learns what has happened in the last few days in man's world. Wonder Woman activates an old war-time radio. She reaches out.

CENTRAL CITY.
A radio call in the dark.

Flash. Flash!

Superman is flying through the city. He has a radio and Flash's frequency—the police band Flash listens to as he runs.

Flash answers. He and Wally are hiding in a secure place in the dark.

Batman contacted both of them the second he understood what was happening—about a second before anyone else. Realizing the threat they posed, he told them not to look at a screen and to hide. They can't go out. Part of being as fast as they are is taking in information in a nanosecond. They had to hide away from the world. Not very heroic, but for either one of them to be infected would spell disaster.

Superman tells them to sit tight and close their eyes.

He grabs them from where they are and takes them to the Planet—which is now completely internet free.

Looser plans

From here, the heroes take down the internet—some central hub.

They meet Cyborg there—he's doing all he can to stop what he brought to his world. He's a carrier, but he's immune.

They're successful in taking down the internet, and the world steps back in time.

Lois Lane becomes the face of the world. Informing the masses. With heroes as her eyes in the skies, she's able to explain where the danger zones are. Lead many to safety.

The Daily Planet becomes planet-wide. Its headquarters on every continent are opened and connected via landlines and radio.

With the technological trigger removed, Barry and Wally distribute radios and the message across the world.

But it's becoming increasingly dangerous to stay in Metropolis. They have to move to a place of safety.

Everyone moves to the Fortress of Solitude. The Zombies can't reach them without freezing. Lois continues to report from there. The Fortress becomes the new Daily Planet as, daily, the planet gets smaller.

Clark carries the Daily Planet's globe and places it on top of the fortress.

Major beats from here

-Green Lanterns come to Quarantine the planet (possibly).

-More street-level rescues from smaller heroes.

-Themyscira becomes a safe-haven and survivors are brought there every day. Superman, Wonder Woman, and Shazam lift up pieces of the sea-floor—increasing the landmass of Themyscira for the refugees of the world.

-Booster Gold and Ted Kord on a side-mission to undo what has been done.

TED KORD:
You can travel in time. Can you find the point this started?

BOOSTER:
Skeets. I think we can do this.

But Booster Gold fades away—because the future is lost.

-Flash is infected. The Virus is now connected to the Speed force. He speeds across the Earth infecting at impossible speeds. Superman has to chase him and take him down—a macabre twist on the classic race.

-Eventually, the Earth is doomed. They have to leave. Cyborg and others build a space ark—to carry what's left of humanity away.

-Superman is infected—possibly thanks to Parasite.

-As the ark leaves Earth, Zombie Superman flies after it. Jon and Wonder Woman get ready to stand up to him...but he flies straight past them. He has a greater hunger and a larger life to take. Superman's zombified cells begin to consume the sun as the ark leaves the solar system.

-Earth and its walking dead will turn cold. The last light will go out of the solar system. The Anti-life equation is done.

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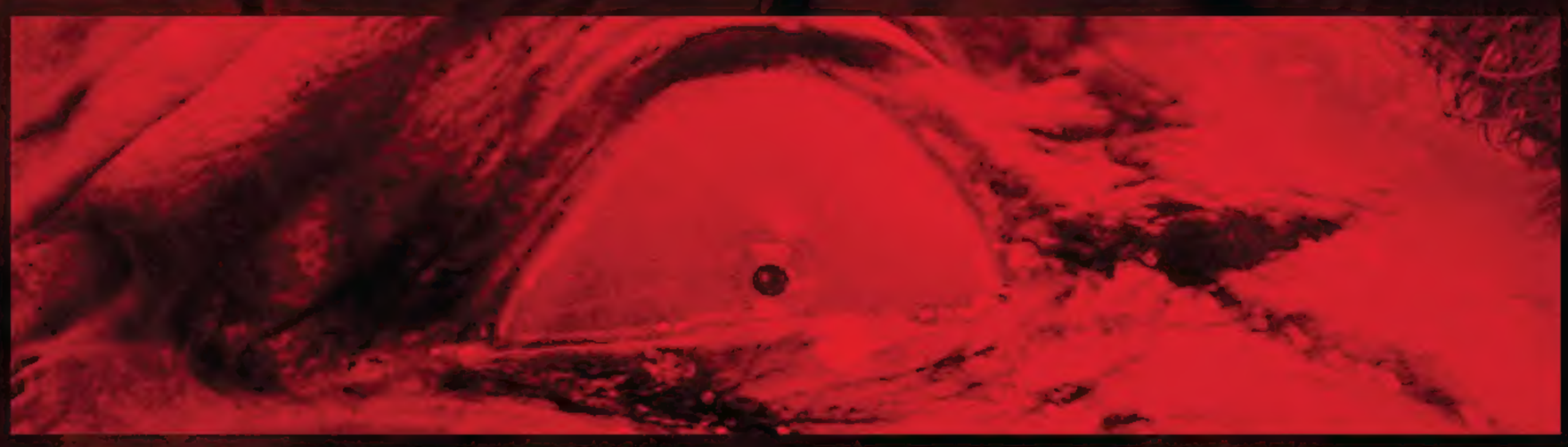

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